



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

**OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Krysten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Kelly and Sinema:

Thank you for your January 10, 2022, letter concerning funding remediation efforts at Superfund sites in Arizona with appropriations from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), formally known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shares your enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the successful implementation of this major piece of legislation, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this and other important environmental issues with you directly in the near future.

As you know, the BIL provides additional resources, including \$3.5 billion for the Superfund Remedial program. EPA has been working to identify priorities for the BIL's infusion of Superfund money and will be dedicating the vast majority of the \$3.5 billion to remedial construction projects and long-term response projects at National Priority List (NPL) sites. This will maximize the waiver of the state cost share requirements for funding Superfund cleanups otherwise applicable pursuant to the original Superfund law, known as CERCLA. In addition, BIL funds for remedial construction will enable EPA to dedicate more of its annually appropriated funds and/or funds available from Superfund tax revenues for other crucial Superfund activities, including remedial investigations, feasibility studies, remedial designs, and community involvement activities.

In Arizona, EPA Region 9 and our partners at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality are evaluating NPL sites currently under investigation and/or ready for remedial action to determine which could benefit from BIL funding. While some of the sites in Arizona may not be eligible for Superfund infrastructure funds at this time, they may be eligible for BIL water funds, and EPA has been encouraging local agencies to apply for those opportunities. Throughout this process, EPA Region 9 will continue to coordinate with our state and local partners to best use BIL funding.

You also inquired about certain federal facilities in Arizona, including Luke Air Force Base, Williams Air Force Base, and Yuma Marine Corps Air Station. The EPA allocation of BIL funding is not being utilized at Department of Defense sites. However, the Department of Defense the existing Defense Environmental Restoration Program that funds much of this ongoing work.

In your letter, you also requested that EPA Region 9 examine whether a portion of the Superfund allocation could be used for remediation efforts at abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. At this time, EPA is planning to use those funds for National Priority List projects.

Thank you for your support of this monumental effort and your dedication to the people of Arizona. EPA Region 9 looks forward to utilizing the resources provided in the BIL to address Superfund sites across Arizona more expeditiously. I would very much like to set up a meeting with you at a convenient time to introduce myself and discuss this and other EPA-related issues. Our Congressional Liaison, Sonam Gill, will be in touch with your staff to pursue such a meeting. She can be reached at 415-972-3380 or via email at gill.sonam@epa.gov. I can be contacted at 415-947-8702 or via email at guzman.martha@epa.gov. I look forward to our continued coordination and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Martha Guzman
Regional Administrator